

REMARKS

Claims 1-57 are pending. Claims 1, 21, 35, and 48 have been amended. Claims 58-100 have been withdrawn. No new matter has been added.

Specification

Applicants have herein provided a brief description to Figures 64-74.

Claim Objections

Claim 99 has been objected to for informalities. Applicant has herein withdrawn Claim 99, and as such the objection to Claim 99 is now moot.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Claims 1-10, 12-16, 18-21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34, 35, 37-48, 50-57, and 95-98 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sedlar (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,916). Applicant have reviewed the above cited reference and respectfully submits that the present invention as recited in Claims 1-57, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the Sedlar reference.

Independent Claim 1

Applicant respectfully points out that independent Claim 1 recites that the present invention includes, in part:

A method for enhancing communication within a community, the method comprising:

* * *

(c) storing in said hierarchical structure at least a portion of said communications received from said plurality of users from at least one of a plurality of input devices in relation to at least one of a plurality of topics that is user selected;

(z) providing a link to a resource associated with said at least a portion of said communications that is stored, wherein said link is available for access by authorized users of said plurality of users;

(d) prioritizing said at least a portion of said communications within said hierarchical structure;

(e) presenting to at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one of a plurality of input devices a selected portion of said communications stored in said hierarchical structure, wherein said selected portion of said communications are related under said at least one of a plurality of topics that is user selected; and

(f) enabling dynamic interaction through further contributions of communications by said at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one of a plurality of input devices in response to presentation of said selected portion of said communications within said hierarchical structure, wherein said further contributions of communications are stored and accessed within said hierarchical structure in relation to said topic, wherein said further contributions are associated with at least one discussion thread comprising recorded communication under said at least one of a plurality of topics that is conducted between participating users of said plurality of users.

The present invention pertains to a method of enhancing communication in which users, content, and documents are linked to form a user defined and growing body of knowledge. In particular, independent Claim 1 recites that a hierarchical structure is established for organizing communications between a plurality of users. A portion of the communications is stored in relation to a user selected topic. A link to a resource associated with the portion of communication is also provided. Thereafter, dynamic interaction with the selection portion of communications is enabled by allowing further contributions of communications that are stored and accessed within the hierarchical structure in relation to the user selected topic, wherein the further contributions are associated with at least one discussion thread comprising a recorded communication.

Applicants respectfully note that the prior art reference, Sedlar, does not teach nor suggest the present method of enhancing communications that comprises, in particular, the dynamic interaction with a selected portion of communications related under a topic in which further contributions of communications are stored and accessed within the hierarchical structure in relation to the topic, as claimed in independent Claim 1 of the present invention. In particular, the Sedlar reference does not teach that further contributions are associated with at least one

discussion thread comprising a recorded communication, wherein the further contributions are conducted between participating users. In addition, the Sedlar reference does not teach that a link is provided to a resource, wherein the link is associated with the portion of communication that is stored in relation to the user selected topic, as recited in independent Claim 1 of the present invention.

In contrast to independent Claim 1 of the present invention, the Sedlar reference discloses an event notification system in which an association is established between a type of file system operation, a file, and an interested entity. In response to detecting that the file system operation is performed on the file, a message or notification is sent to the interested entity.

In particular, the Sedlar reference does not teach the storing of a portion of the communications in relation to a topic that is user selected, as recited in independent Claim 1 of the present invention. Instead, the Sedlar reference teaches that the file system has directories arranged in hierarchy, in which the hierarchical relationships between the directories reflect some intuitive relationship between meanings assigned to the directories. However, the Sedlar reference does not teach that communications are arranged hierarchically according to a topic that is user selected.

In addition, the Sedlar reference does not teach that link to a resource is provided. Specifically, the link is associated with the portion of the communications that is stored in relation to the user selected topic. As such, embodiments of the present invention provide for the storing of communications in relation to a user selected topic, and the providing of a link to a resource that is related to the portion of communications that is stored.

Moreover, the Sedlar reference does not teach dynamic interaction by a user in response to the presentation of selected portions of communications to the user, as recited in independent Claim 1 of the present invention. Instead, the Sedlar reference teaches various means for implementing an event notification system in response to file system operations. In particular, the Sedlar reference teaches that multiple copies of a document can be updated using the event notification system described in Sedlar when a file is updated. Also, the Sedlar reference teaches that in response to storing a document in a file, a message can be generated that notifies a user that the document is ready for review. (See col. 27. line 11 - col. 28, line 20 of the Sedlar reference). However, the Sedlar reference does not teach the enablement of dynamic interaction through further contributions of communications by a user in response to the presentation of selected portions of communications. In particular, the Sedlar reference does not teach that the

further contributions are associated with at least one discussion thread comprising a recorded communication, wherein the discussion thread is stored in relation to the user selected topic.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as disclosed in independent Claim 1 is not anticipated by the Sedlar reference, and is in a condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-20 which depend from independent Claim 1 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Independent Claim 21

Claims 21, 28, 30, 31, and 34 are of the same scope as Claims 1-3, 16, and 20, and are rejected for the same reason as for claims 1-3, 16, and 20. For analogous reasons set forth in support of the allowability of independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that independent Claim 21 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the Sedlar reference. Applicant respectfully points out that independent Claim 21 recites that the present invention includes, in part:

A computer system for enhancing communication within a community, the computer system comprising:

an application platform running an application that organizes a plurality of

communications, said application further comprising:

* * *

an input module for capturing said plurality of communications within said hierarchical structure sent by said plurality of users from a plurality of communication devices and storing at least a portion of said plurality of communications in relation to at least one of a plurality of topics that is user selected, wherein said plurality of communications comprises at least one link to a resource associated with said at least a portion of said plurality of communications that is stored, wherein said link is available for access by authorized users;

a thread synchronization module for synchronizing said plurality of communications within said hierarchical structure;

a reviewing module for presenting said synchronized plurality of communications in said hierarchical structure to said plurality of users for dynamic interaction enabled through further contributions of communications by said plurality of users, wherein said further contributions of communications are stored and accessed within said hierarchical structure in relation to said at least one of a plurality of topics that is user selected, wherein said further contributions are associated with at least one discussion thread comprising recorded communication under said at least one of a plurality of topics that is conducted between participating users of said plurality of users . . .

The present invention pertains to a computer system that includes an application platform that is capable of enhancing communication in which users, content, and documents are linked to form a user defined and growing body of knowledge. In particular, independent Claim 21 recites that an input module stores at least a portion of the

plurality of communications in relation to at least one of a plurality of topics that is user selected.

For analogous reasons set forth in support of the arguments for the allowability of independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully note that the Sedlar reference does not teach nor suggest the present computer system including an application platform that is capable of enhancing communications that comprises, in particular, the storing of at least a portion of the plurality of communications in relation to a user selected topic. Additionally, Applicants respectfully assert that the Sedlar reference does not teach that the plurality of communications comprises at least one link to a resource, wherein the link is associated with the portion of communications that is stored in relation to the user selected topic, as is recited in independent Claim 1. Also, Applicants respectfully assert that the Sedlar reference does not teach the dynamic interaction of communications are achieved through further contributions, wherein the further contributions are associated with a discussion thread comprising a recorded communication that is stored in relation to the user selected topic.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as disclosed in independent Claim 21 is not anticipated by the Sedlar reference, and is in a condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit

that Claims 22-34 which depend from independent Claim 21 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Independent Claims 35 and 48

Claims 35, 37-48, and 50-57 are of the same scope as Claims 1-5, 9, 14-15, 18-20, and 24, and are rejected for the same reason as for Claims 1-5, 9, 14, 15, 18-20, and 24. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that the present invention as recited in Claims 35, 37-48, and 50-57 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the Sedlar reference.

Applicant respectfully points out that the present invention as recited in independent Claim 35 and 48 includes, in part:

A method for enhancing communication within a community, the method comprising the steps of:

* * *

(a) receiving in an application in an application platform a communication sent by a user from a first communication device, wherein said communication is associated with a user selected topic of a plurality of topics such that said user selected topic is selected by said user, and receiving a link to a resource associated with said communication;

The present invention pertains to a method of enhancing communication that in which users, content, and documents are linked to form a user defined and growing body of knowledge. In particular, independent Claims 35 and 48 both

recite that a communication is received, wherein the communication is associated with a user selected topic, and wherein a link to a resource that is associated with the communication is also received. Furthermore, independent Claim 35 recites that a dynamic interaction is achieved by accepting an initial input comprising the communication and link, and outputting the initial input to a second communication device. Moreover, independent Claim 48 recites that a dynamic interaction is achieved by accepting a response input comprising the communication and link, and outputting the response input to a second communication device.

Moreover, for analogous reasons set forth in support of the arguments for the allowability of independent Claims 1 and 21, Applicants respectfully note that the Sedlar reference does not teach nor suggest the present method that is capable of determining a dynamic interaction capability for the user in relation to a portion of the information based on database hierarchy, authorization parameters, and interaction control parameters. Specifically, the Sedlar reference does not teach a dynamic interaction that includes accepting an initial input from the user and the output of the initial input to a second device, wherein the initial input comprises a communication and a link to a resource associated with the communication, as is recited in independent Claim 35 of the present invention. Also, the

Sedlar reference does not teach a dynamic interaction that includes accepting a response input from the user and the output of the response input to a second device, wherein the response input comprises a communication and a link to a resource associated with the communication, as is recited in independent Claim 48 of the present invention.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as disclosed in independent Claims 35 and 48 are not anticipated by the Sedlar reference, and is in a condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 36-47 which depend from independent Claim 35 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Also, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 49-57 which depend from independent Claim 48 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 11, 36, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Sedlar, and further in view of Dennis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,932). Claims 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sedlar, and further in view of Gilchrist et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,832). Claims 22, 23, 26, 32, and 33 are

rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sedlar, and further in view of Underwood (U.S. Patent No. 6,718,535). Claims 99 and 100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sedlar, and further in view of Beams et al. (U.S. Patent No., 6,611,822). Claims 58-69 are of the same scope as claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14, 15, 24, 27, 32, and 33, and are rejected for the same reasons for claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14, 15, 24, 27, 32, and 33. Claims 70-80 are of the same scope as claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14-16, and 24, and are rejected for the same reasons for claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14-16, and 24. Claims 81-95 are of the same scope as claims 1-3, 16, 17, 20, 22-27, 32, and 33, and are rejected for the same reasons for claims 1-3, 16, 17, 20, 22-27, 32, and 33.

Claims 11, 17, and 18 depend from independent Claim 1, now allowable as argued above. Moreover, the prior art references cited against Claims 11, 17 and 18 taken alone, or in combination, do not disclose nor suggest the method for enhanced communication that includes dynamic interaction in response to the selected portion of communications presented to a user, as is presently claimed in independent Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 11, 17 and 18 which depend from independent Claim 1 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and arguments presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected Claims for allowance thereof.

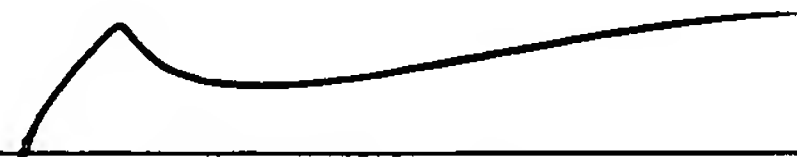
Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-57 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: _____

10/10/06



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